



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GROWTH MANAGEMENT HEARINGS BOARD

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May 8, 2014

Mr. Conner G. Edwards
Property Rights Department
Freedom Foundation
2403 Pacific Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98506

Dear Mr. Conner:

This letter is in answer to your Petition to Create Rule filed with the Growth Management Hearings Board on March 31, 2014. In it you proposed a new rule regarding the posting of a digital copy of the Initial Petition for Review (PFR) on our website within 5 business days of the petitioner(s) being assigned an official case number. The petition was filed pursuant to RCW 34.05.330.

The Growth Management Hearings Board denies your petition to create a new rule but believes your recommendation to put PFRs on our web site has merit. As you note in your petition, our website already has considerable information about all our cases. You recommended that we add the PFR information to the site because it contains additional useful information about cases and would help ordinary citizens to learn more about what makes for a successful petition. We agree, and for the next six months will test adding electronically filed copies of the initially filed PFRs to the case details online viewer. We do not plan to post any amended PFRs, since the posted Prehearing Orders incorporate any amended legal issues and would show how the issues changed from the originally posted PFRs. Unless we encounter problems with this test, we will continue to include PFRs on our website. We typically don't have formal rules regarding the information included on our website to allow some flexibility in revising the site as needed.

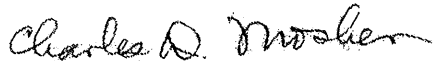
To follow-up on your petition, I reviewed the PFRs submitted over the past year as well as a select number of previous cases. I also contacted several parties that have been involved in our cases and asked them about the usefulness of the PFR information and whether it adds information not already presented on our website. In general, all parties agree that the basic PFR presents more complete information in a less formal, more understandable manner than the orders already included on our website and would be helpful to citizens in understanding our cases. At a Board meeting, the Board considered these inputs and voted unanimously to deny rule-making but supported posting electronically filed PFRs on our web site.

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Typically, the basic PFRs are less than 10 pages and, if filed electronically, would be easily put on the website within the 10 days that we normally process and post our initial notice of hearings for new cases. Attachments to the PFRs, however, can be large, and include voluminous documents already referenced and summarized in the basic PFRs. Our staff indicates that adding those documents can be time consuming and will require expensive database changes. None of the parties we consulted with felt that including the PFR attachments would be particularly useful so our plan is to just put the basic PFRs on our website.

We plan to begin adding new PFRs to the web site by the end of June.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles D. Mosher".

Charles Mosher
Administrative Officer